



PREVENTION TALK

METHAMPHETAMINE: AN UPDATE

WRITTEN BY LYNDA KAMERRER

EDITED BY KRIS GABRIELSEN AND JACK WILSON

Issue Number 24

CSAP'S WESTERN CENTER FOR THE
APPLICATION OF PREVENTION TECHNOLOGIES
JULIE HOGAN, PH.D. DIRECTOR

Methamphetamine continues to be prominent in the news and is a concern for many parents. Trafficking and use of this drug gradually spread from the West Coast and Southwest to the Midwest and Eastern United States. Agricultural communities and geographically isolated areas were initially targeted by the producers, or “cooks.” Now methamphetamine is affecting suburban, rural, and urban areas across the United States. A national youth survey notes the following changes between 2004 and 2005: lifetime use of methamphetamine rose .6 percent among 8th graders, fell 1.2 percent among 10th graders, and fell 1.7 percent among 12th-graders¹.

REMEMBER:

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”

—Margaret Mead

Price is not a barrier and neither is access. Methamphetamine can be made almost anywhere with a few easy to obtain ingredients.

At least 20 states have enacted or are considering laws restricting purchase of the readily available ingredients for making meth. Treatment centers, researchers, and criminal justice officials are hard at work developing and securing funding for effective treatment.² Drug enforcement agencies have allocated increased resources to eliminate imported drugs and ingredients, to find and safely dispose of drug producing labs, and to increase penalties for violators. Communities and entire states are collaborating with federal agencies on meth initiatives. Participants can organize and combine their efforts around prevention and intervention against methamphetamine; visit www.methwatchwa.com for examples. The Methamphetamine Awareness Project in Oregon is an

innovative partnership among high schools, the film industry, and prevention education. For details visit www.methawarenessproject.org.

THINK ABOUT:

- It is important to understand the risk factors, use patterns, and unique characteristics surrounding the methamphetamine problem in your community when choosing prevention and education strategies.
- Addressing methamphetamine through comprehensive prevention and education designed to prevent all forms of drug abuse will increase long-term effectiveness.¹
- Visit the new federally sponsored site for some of the most recent information on meth: www.methresources.gov.

ACTION STEPS:

- Actively participate in school, community, and family prevention and education programs with your child.
- Have a frank talk with your family about meth; clearly articulate a no use policy.
- Listen to concerns from your teens on a frequent basis.
- Review and practice drug refusal skills; visit <http://family.samhsa.gov/teach/refusal.aspx> for ideas.

For more information call:

SOURCES:

¹Substance Abuse and Mental Health Data Archive, University of Michigan. New 2005 drug trends. Retrieved December 20, 2005 from <http://monitoringthefuture.org/data/05data/pr05t1.pdf>.

²National Institute of Drug Abuse. (2005, April 21). NIDA infoFacts: High school and youth trends. Retrieved August 14, 2005, from www.drugabuse.gov/Infofacts/HSYouthtrends.html

³U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2004). Long-term abstinence brings partial recovery from methamphetamine damage (NIH Publication No.05-3478). Bethesda, MD: Author.

⁴U.S. Dept of Justice, U.S. Dept of Health and Human Services, U.S. Dept of Education, and the Office of National Drug Control Policy/ Methamphetamine Interagency Task Force - Final Report: Federal Advisory Committee. (2000). Washington, DC: Government Printing Office.